

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01

OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DOTE-00

FMC-01 /108 W

----- 102311

O P 241036Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1808

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12765

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, ID, JA, US

SUBJ: INDONESIA-JAPAN LNG TRANSPORTATION

REF: TOKYO 12573

1. YOMIURI SHINBUN AGAIN CARRIED FRONT PAGE HEADLINE AUG 24 ALLEG-
ING THAT \$3 MILLION WAS PAID TO "HIGH SHIPPING OFFICIALS" AS BRIBES
IN CONNECTION WITH LNG SHIPS. FILED BY SAME YOMIURI CORRESPONDENT
IN NEW YORK RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVIOUS REPORT (REFTEL), STORY CLAIMS
INFORMATION IS BASED ON TESTIMONY BY STANLEY WILSON AND ALISTAIR
DOWN IN A NEW YORK COURT THAT CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD DOWN PAID \$3
MILLION IN BRIBES TO "HIGH SHIPPING OFFICIALS IN JAPAN" THROUGH A
BURMUDA COMPANY NAMED "FONTAS" (PHONETIC) BEHIND WHICH THERE ARE
ALLEGEDLY INFLUENCIAL KOREANS WHO LOBBY IN WASHINGTON ON BEHALF OF
THE ROK GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE ADDS THAT THE MONEY WAS DIVIDED
INTO \$2 MILLION IN CASH AND \$1 MILLION IN PROMISSORY NOTES, BUT
NOTED THAT IT IS UNKNOWN HOW MANY OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED OR
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WHETHER THEY WERE FROM THE GOJ OR FROM PRIVATE INDUSTRY.

2. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE FOLLOWING LEAD ARTICLE DESCRIBED ABOVE,
"GOVERNMENT SOURCES" DENIED THERE WAS ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
REALITY AND THE ABOVE ALLEGATIONS.

3. IRONICALLY THE YOMIURI STORY APPEARED ON THE DAY IN WHICH THE
NEGOTIATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE MADE THE MOST PROGRESS. ALTHOUGH CAU-
TIONING AGAINST OVER-OPTIMISM, BENSON OUTLINED FOR US THE LATEST
JAPANESE PROPOSALS WHICH SEEM TO US TO REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT CON-
CESSIONS. NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE NIGHT
OF AUG 24. ANYTHING THE DEPARTMENT AND MARAD CAN PROVIDE TO CLAIM
ANXIETIES HERE ABOUT EFFECTS OF PRESS STORIES, PROGRESS ON SPHERE
CONSTRUCTION, ETC., WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
SHOESMITH

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